THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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The Kingdom of God

Your Kingdom come… Matt 6:10

The Kingdom of Men

In our contemporary world, a kingdom can be referred to as a territory governed by one ruler either called a **'king'** or a **'queen'.** Everybody within such territories is under the leadership of the ruler and is subject to his/her command. Now, this is talking about the kingdom of men. In the book of Daniel, its recorded that *"the most high is sovereign over the kingdoms of men"* **Daniel 4:17**. Though the concept of kingdom is not widely practiced in the 21st Century. In the past, however, people and territories were governed based on kingship. Even if the concept is not widely seen in today's world, we read in history books and even in films and see what kingdoms and kingship is like among men.

With this little understanding of what kingdom is among men, how do we view the kingdom of God as Jesus talked about in **Matthew 6:10**?

What is the kingdom of God?

Since I was born, I have not seen or read that the kingdom of God is located somewhere in this world. Jesus, while teaching his disciples how to pray, said they should pray that "Your Kingdom Come".

Questions:

- Jesus came and left about 2,000 years ago. Since then, people have been praying the Lord's prayer. Has the kingdom come?
- Is it currently in Israel?
- Are we still waiting for it to come?
- Is it going to come after the rapture when no evil is found on the earth again?
- Was Jesus teaching his disciples to pray in parables?
- Are generations going to keep passing until the day God decides to carve out a place or come and fight a particular nation then establish his kingdom there?

The above questions are geared toward perspectives. Perspectives here means how the "**concept of the kingdom of God is looked at**"

The Bible says that the natural came first. Then the spiritual. The apostle was analyzing the life that was in Adam (recorded as the "first Adam") and the one that is found in Christ (Recorded as the "last Adam"). **1 Corinthians 15:45-46**

So, it says that "the natural came first" then the spiritual. What this means is that when one is reading about the kingdom of God, the possibility of the person looking at it based on the contemporary meaning of kingdom among men is 98% if that person is not yet transformed into a spiritual person.

What then is the Kingdom of God and how can we know that its already here?

Let's hear this conversation between Jesus Christ and the Pharisees:

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say "Here it is or There it is, because the kingdom of God is within you." **Luke 17:20-21**

Wait a minute; Lord, did you just say 'the kingdom of God is within me?

It may sound discomforting and sometimes look like its something that is unachievable but we must release ourselves to agree with "**The Truth**". From the inception of the life in Christ, we are supposed to believe that we are getting ourselves into the reality of the spirituality of life. If Jesus was not ashamed or afraid to tell us the reality of what we are getting into, who are we his followers to try to amend his ways?

How then is the Kingdom of God within us a reality?

The kingdom of God and the kingdom of men may not be very far from each other in "General meaning of kingdom" in that in both:

- There is a king who rules,
- Everything happens at the command of the king

- The citizens reap the harvest of being in such a kingdom only if they adhere to the command of the king
- And many more.

The differences:

The differences are that:

- The modes of operation are different,
- Where the kings reign are different. God reigns in the hearts of men (from within out). Human kings reign in a physical environment (they have no rights to get into a human's heart).
- The evidence of the kingdom of God is seen in the conduct and behavior of one who has the Holy Spirit within him while that of men maybe a multitude of people who are loyal to the king within a physical environment.
- And many more.

The kingdom of God in summary is the reality of the Holy Spirit taking over the control of a man's life. We can recall that even before Jesus Christ started his ministry, the Bible records that "The Spirit descended on him like a dove". So, we can believe that Jesus Christ the one we believe and hope in was led by the Holy Spirit all his life on Earth. At a point, he told the people that the words they hear him speak are not just his own but that the father was speaking through him. How was the father speaking through him? Its by the Spirit of the father.

You can agree with me that (though we don't often see kingdoms and kingship in our contemporary world today) people in different kingdoms behave differently. Even if we watch in movies, we can see that maybe the way the military of a kingdom dresses may be different from the way one in a different kingdom does it. We can see that the things that are valued in a particular kingdom may not be the things that are valued in a different kingdom.

Also, if you take a close look at your life, if you have tasted the goodness of being led by the Spirit of God from within, you can see that the things you consider valuable may not be what one without the Spirit of God will consider as valuable.

Jesus himself when answering the people who said he was driving demons by Beelzebub concluded by saying: "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" **Matthew 12:28**. By this, he was

telling them that this is one of the evidences that show that the kingdom of God is in a man.

By way of conclusion, lets look at what the Lord spoke through apostle Paul about what the kingdom of God is about:

For the kingdom of god is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. **Romans 14:17**.

Some Scriptural references to help us acknowledge that the kingdom of God is from within out

- **Luke 13:18-19**
- **Luke 13:20-21**
- **Mark 4:26-29**
- **Mark 4:30-32**
- **Matthew 20:1-16**
- **Matthew 18:23-35**
- **And many more.**

Attention!

Remember the conversation of Jesus and Nicodemus?

He said "I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." **John 3:3**

Also, **Romans** 10:10 says "For is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with you mouth that you confess and are saved.

Therefore, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior, congratulations. For I can tell you that it's the greatest event that can ever

happen in a man's life on earth. This is not some religious talk to try to sell a deity! I know what I am talking about. But if you have not, please pray this prayer with me. For it's the starting point of this journey:
"Lord Jesus, I believe you are the son of God. I believe that on my own I cannot save myself. I acknowledge that I have sinned against God and believe that only in you will my sins be wiped away. Please come into my life today and be my personal Lord and savior. Amen"

Congratulations if you just prayed that prayer. Welcome to the family of God. My brother my sister, believe it by faith and be patient with him to reveal himself to you.

If you are led by the Holy Spirit to undergo water baptism, do not resist him. For even our Lord said "It is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness".

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